

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Philippines

SUBJECT Large Scale Arrests of HMB Suspects
by Armed Forces of the Philippines

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1. Early in February 1951, 3,000 persons were arrested in Central Luzon by units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) on suspicion of affiliation with the HMB. These arrests were made without the knowledge of Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay.
2. Approximately 100 of the individuals arrested by the AFP were identified subsequently by an AFP source as members of the HMB.
3. Magsaysay reportedly was afraid that these indiscriminate arrests of HMB suspects would result in unfavorable publicity for the AFP. On 6 February 1951, students from Bulacan Province told Magsaysay that they would launch a demonstration by all the students in Manila universities unless the majority of the persons arrested was released immediately. As a result of this protest, Magsaysay investigated details of this situation personally.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. This incident apparently was settled without adverse publicity. However, the incident is an illustration of AFP techniques in investigating HMB suspects. Such large scale arrests of suspects recently have become one of Magsaysay's principal problems.

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